



**General Law Committee
Connecticut General Assembly**

***House Bill 5733, AN ACT REQUIRING PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING
COMPANIES TO PACKAGE OPIOIDS DISPENSED IN THE STATE IN BLISTER PACKS***

February 7, 2017

Representative Baram, Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, and Distinguished Members:

I would like to thank you for bringing this important matter to this forum. I am here to testify in strong opposition to House Bill 5733. My name is David Benoit. I am a pharmacist and for over twenty years, I have worked in the business of independent community pharmacy at Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation, a group purchasing organization. Currently, there are approximately 280 Participating Pharmacies.

Many drug products are available in larger quantity packages such as bottles of 100, 500, or 1000 dosage units. A pharmacy would determine for itself to purchase the smallest size available or a larger quantity that made sense for the business. The decision to buy in bulk would be most likely for those fast moving products that are in our dispensing machines or robots. Non-opioids or opioids are all subject to these considerations.

Blister packaging is very bulky and requires much more space. Each pharmacy would likely need to increase the size of their safe, which is required for the storage of these products. It is obvious that blister packaging would be very disruptive for the advanced technology used in many pharmacies.

Second, the state would experience an increase in the prices paid for these products and in the expense of storing, distributing, and administering such products in state facilities. Community pharmacies would experience the same.

Not understanding any benefits of blister packaging in the continuing effort to reduce opioid abuse, I oppose HB 5733.

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